Cisco Solution Brief

Datacoms Systems has been selected as a partner of Cisco Systems based on the flexibility of our intelligent taps and network packet brokers, which are optimal for small to mid-sized networks. These devices are ideal for deployment at the network edge and in IDF's (Independent Data Facilities,) which often require significantly lower port density than data centers, yet still need the flexibility to scale to higher density when needed. Rather than chassis-based designs, which require significant investment in a chassis with multiple blades and often activation costs associated with the number of ports, Datacom Systems focuses on a stacking feature. Two of these compact devices can be house in a single 1RU rack mount. 10G interconnects support a single data and control plane. This allows multiple units to be viewed as a single logical device, and supports a "single pane of glass" for control.

A key optional feature of Datacom's newest generation of products is flow generation and metadata forwarding. By functioning as an IOS NetFlow v9 Observation Point (IPFIX has native support for all IOS Netflow functions) perform the IPFIX Metering Process to collect data packets, optionally filter them and aggregate information about these packets. Cisco's IOS NetFlow has become an increasingly valuable tool in network performance management, anomaly detection, and security monitoring. With this optional feature enabled, our hardware will perform additional flow related function including export to flow collectors. Many legacy switches and routers do not support IOS NetFlow, and cannot observe or export the statistics needed for the NetFlow Collector. Datacom taps and packet brokers, which already serve a crucial function for gaining access to data via tapped links and SPAN ports are typically positioned at key points where traffic from many endpoints and devices passes through. This provides a cost effective of providing this valuable statistical information, which is required for various applications – including Cisco Stealthwatch™.

* Datacom product support for s-Flow, Netflow9 or IPFIX is an engineered solution that will depend on the way the unit is configured. There is an inversely proportional relationship between configuration and the number of ports that can support flows. mention flow generation and forwarding.

If the customer requires more ports and/or higher bandwidth port to support IPFix then the ports can be connected to the CPU-based NPBs to support the generation and forwarding of IPFix flows.